

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re PATENT APPLICATION of

Bright et al.

Application Serial No. 09/405,839

Filed: September 27, 1999

Title: IMPROVED PLANT GERMPLASM



Group Art Unit: 1635

Examiner: LaCourciere, K.A.

TECH CENTER 1600/2900

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May 28, 2002

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AMENDMENT

Hon. Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to further examination pursuant to the Request for Continued Examination (RCE) filed concurrently herewith, please amend the above identified application as follows herein.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the following claims:

27. (Twice Amended) An expression system as claimed in claims 39, 40, or 41, wherein the plant characteristic produced by said inserted gene can be used to prevent the production of seeds capable of developing into mature plants.

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28. (Amended) An expression system as claimed in claims 39, 40, or 41, wherein said inducible promoter sequence is functionally linked to and controls a repressor protein gene and in which the disrupter gene promoter includes an operator sequence recognized by said repressor protein, so that in the presence of the inducer the repressor protein is produced which interacts with the operator sequence disabling the plant developmental gene promoter and inhibiting expression of the disrupter gene.